

1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 21

¹ And David came to Nob, to Abimelech the priest. And Abimelech was amazed at meeting him, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one is with you?" ² And David said to the priest, "The king gave me a command today, and said to me, 'Let no one know the matter on which I send you, and concerning which I have charged you'; and I have charged my servants to be in the place that is called, 'The Faithfulness of God, Phellani Maemoni.'" ³ And now, if you have five loaves, give into my hand what is ready." ⁴ And the priest answered David and said, "There are no common loaves under my hand, for I have none but holy loaves: if the young men have been kept at least from women, then they shall eat them." ⁵ And David answered the priest and said to him, "Yes, we have been kept from women for three days: when I came forth for the journey all the young men were purified; but this journey is profane, for it shall be sanctified today on account of my weapons." ⁶ So Abimelech the priest gave him the showbread; for there were no loaves there, but only the presence loaves which had been removed from the presence of the Lord, in order that hot bread should be set on, on the day on which he took them.

⁷ And one of Saul's servants was there on that day, detained before the Lord, and his name was Doeg the Syrian, tending the mules of Saul. ⁸ And David said to Abimelech, "See if you have a spear or a sword here, for I have not brought my sword or my weapons, for the word of the king was urgent." ⁹ And the priest said, "Behold the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah; and it is wrapped in a cloth. If you will take it, take it for yourself, for there is no other *weapon* except that here." And David said, "Behold, there is none like it; give it to me."

¹⁰ And he gave it to him. And David arose, and fled in that day from the presence of Saul. And David came to Achish king of Gath. ¹¹ And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David, the king of the land? Did not the dancing women begin the song to him, saying, 'Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands?'" ¹² And David laid up the words in his heart, and was greatly afraid of Achish king of Gath. ¹³ And he changed his appearance in that day before *the king*, and pretended to be somebody else; and he pounded on the doors of the city, and used extravagant gestures with his hands, and fell against the doors of the gate, and his saliva ran down upon his beard. ¹⁴ And Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man is mad; why have you brought him in to me?" ¹⁵ Am I in need of madmen, that you have brought him in to me to play the madman? He shall not come into the house!"